

# ADA Self – Evaluation and Transition Plan

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WEST BRIDGEWATER, MASSACHUSETTS

Old Colony Planning Council  
| JUNE 2023



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## Acknowledgements

The Town of West Bridgewater ADA Self Evaluation and Transition plan would not have been possible without the support, input, and local knowledge provided by the town's citizens, professional staff, and leadership. The Town would like to acknowledge the following for their role in preparing this Self Evaluation & Transition Plan:

### **Town Staff**

David Gagne, Town Administrator

Linda Torres, Assistant Town Administrator

Tracy Altrich, Town Planner/Coordinator of Inspectional Services

Laurie Dolne, Head Administrative Secretary/Grant Writer Planning, and Inspectional Services

Deborah Cauley, Chair - ADA Committee

Marcie Lee, ADA Coordinator

Mary Wynne Yee, Chair - Open Space and Recreation Committee

Caleb Aguiar, 9-year-old youth auditor assistant

Christopher Iannitelli, DPW Director

Victor Flaherty, Jr., Chief of Police

Lincoln Thibeault, Fire Chief

Marilyn Mather, Director of Elder Services

Melanie Terril, Library Director

### **This report was prepared by the following agency and individuals:**

#### **Old Colony Planning Council (OCPC)**

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## Introduction

West Bridgewater is a small residential town bordering on the City of Brockton and located at the junction of Routes 24 and 106. The Town is comfortably settled between Providence and Boston. This access along with availability of land has resulted in increased commercial, warehouse and industrial activity near the highway in this community which was once primarily agricultural. The town does, however, retain working farms which contribute to its scenic character.

The Town of West Bridgewater is the home to 7622 residents located in Plymouth County. The 2021 American Community 5 Year Survey reports 1034 identify as individuals with a disability<sup>1</sup>. Identified disabilities noted as: 154 have a hearing disability, 104 have vision difficulty, 182 have a cognitive difficulty 284 have an ambulatory difficulty, 115 have a self-care difficulty, 195 have an independent living difficulty.

According to the Americans with Disabilities Act (1990), a disability is defined as a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities. This includes individuals who experience persistent impairment or individuals who may be regarded as having a disability.

In 2022, the Town received a grant from the Massachusetts Office on Disability (MOD) to develop a Self-Evaluation Transition plan with the assistance of Old Colony Planning Council (OCPC).

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<sup>1</sup> See ACS Census on page

## Americans with Disabilities Act

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)<sup>2</sup> became law in 1990. The ADA is a civil rights law that prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in all areas of public life, including jobs, schools, transportation, and all public and private places that are open to the public. The law guarantees equal opportunity for individuals with disabilities in public accommodations, employment, transportation, state and local government services and telecommunications.

The ADA is divided into five titles (or sections) that relate to different areas of public life, including:

Title I - Employment

Title II - Public Services: State and Local Government

Title III - Public Accommodations and Services in Private and Commercial Facilities

Title IV - Telecommunications

Title V - Miscellaneous Provisions

Title II of the law directly applies to municipalities that have more than 50 employees and that receive federal funding. The ADA applies to all programs, services, and activities provided by the municipality. This portion of the law requires the creation of the Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan to ensure compliance with regards to program accessibility and effective communication practices.

## ADA Self-Evaluation

The Town of West Bridgewater conducted a self-evaluation of its policies, practices, programs, and communication practices to determine compliance under the ADA.

Municipalities are required to make reasonable modifications to these policies, programs, and services to avoid discrimination against individuals with disabilities. As a municipality that employs more than 50 individuals, the Town of West Bridgewater is required to demonstrate the following:

- a. Designate an employee responsible for carrying out compliance activities
- b. Provide notice to the public of its rights and protections under the ADA and how the entity complies with those obligations.
- c. Establish a grievance procedure
- d. Conduct a Self-Evaluation
- e. Develop an ADA Transition Plan

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<sup>2</sup> Americans with Disability Act Laws, Regulations and Standards, <https://www.ada.gov/law-and-regs/>

## **Self-Evaluation**

The Self-Evaluation identifies and makes corrective recommendations to policies and practices that are inconsistent with Title II's requirements. Recommendations to bring West Bridgewater's programs, policies, and services into compliance with Title II include:

1. Structural changes to meet ADA compliance
2. Policy modifications to ensure nondiscrimination
3. Training of staff on issues of communication practices for individuals with disabilities
4. Auxiliary aids and services needed to provide effective communication

## **ADA Coordinator**

According to ADA Title II – 28 CFR Part 35.107(a), the Town of West Bridgewater is required to have an ADA Coordinator to carry out the following duties:

- Plan and coordinate compliance efforts.
- Develop and distribute notice about ADA compliance.
- Respond to general inquiries from the public.
- Coordinate requests for auxiliary aids and services and reasonable modifications of policies, practices, and procedures.
- Train staff, boards, and commissions on ADA requirements.
- Interact and consult with staff, boards, and commission on the ADA.
- Develop a grievance procedure.
- Investigate complaints.
- Conduct a self-evaluation.
- Develop a transition plan.

On August 3, 2022, the Town of West Bridgewater appointed an acting ADA Coordinator:

Marcie Lee

[mmlee@wbridgewater.com](mailto:mmlee@wbridgewater.com)

phone: (413) 592-4547

## Public Notice

In accordance with the requirements of Title II of the American with Disabilities Act of 1990 (“ADA”), the Town of West Bridgewater will not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities based on disability in its services, programs, or activities.

**Employment:** The Town of West Bridgewater does not discriminate based on disability in its hiring or employment practices and complies with all regulations promulgated by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission under Title I of the ADA.

**Effective Communication:** The Town of West Bridgewater will generally, upon request, provide appropriate aids and services leading to effective communication for qualified persons with disabilities so they can participate equally in Town of West Bridgewater programs, services, and activities, including qualified sign language interpreters, documents in Braille, and other ways of making information and communication accessible to people who have speech, hearing, or vision impairments. A request must be made with ample enough time to allow the Town to accommodate said request.

**Modification to Policies and Procedures:** The Town of West Bridgewater will make all reasonable modifications to policies and programs to ensure that people with disabilities have an equal opportunity to enjoy all its programs, services, and activities. For example, individuals with service animals are welcome in the common areas of the Town of West Bridgewater municipal buildings even where pets are generally prohibited.

Anyone who requires an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication, or a modification of policies or procedures to participate in a program, service, or activity of the Town of West Bridgewater, should contact the office of the Town Clerk as soon as possible but no later than 48 hours before the scheduled event. The Town will make a reasonable effort to accommodate said request(s).

The ADA does not require the Town of West Bridgewater to take any action that would fundamentally alter the nature of its programs or services or impose an undue financial or administrative burden. Complaints that a program, service, or activity of The Town of West Bridgewater is not accessible to persons with disabilities should be directed to the ADA Coordinator.

The Town of West Bridgewater will not place a surcharge on a particular individual with a disability or any group of individuals with disabilities to cover the cost of providing auxiliary aids/services or reasonable modification of policy, such as retrieving items from locations that are open to the public but are not accessible to persons who use wheelchairs.



## Special Employment Notice

Thank you for your interest in a career with the Town of West Bridgewater! We are an equal opportunity employer. Consistent with State and Federal law, we do not discriminate toward applicants and employees as it pertains to race, color, sex, age, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, homelessness, or disability.

## ADA Grievance Procedure

This Grievance Procedure is established to meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (“ADA”). This may be used by anyone who wishes to file a complaint alleging discrimination based on disability in the provision of services, activities, programs, or benefits by the Town of West Bridgewater.

The complaint should be in writing and contain information about the alleged discrimination such as name, address, phone number of complainant and location, date, and description of the problem.

The complaint should be submitted by the grievant and/or his/her designee as soon as possible but no later than 60 calendar days after the alleged violation to the ADA Coordinator

Within 15 calendar days after receipt of the complaint, the ADA Coordinator and/or the ADA Committee will meet with the complainant to discuss the complaint and the possible resolutions. Within a reasonable amount of time, the ADA Coordinator and/or ADA Committee designee will respond in writing, and where appropriate, in a format accessible to the complainant, such as large print, Braille, or audio tape. The response will explain the position of the ADA Coordinator/ADA Committee, and where appropriate, offer options for substantive resolution of the complaint.

If the response by the ADA Coordinator and/or the ADA Committee designee does not satisfactorily resolve the issue, the complainant and /or his/her designee may appeal the decision within 15 calendar days after receipt to the Board of Selectmen.

Within 30 calendar days after receipt of the appeal, the Board of Selectmen will meet with the complainant to discuss the complaint and possible resolutions. Within 30 days of the meeting, the Board of Selectmen will respond in writing, and where appropriate, in a format accessible to the complainant, with a final resolution of the complaint.

All written complaints received by the ADA Coordinator shall be retained by the ADA Committee for a minimum of 3 years. All appeals to the Board of Selectmen will be retained by the Town Administrator for at least three years.

# Statement of Grievance

## Town of West Bridgewater Accessibility Statement of Grievance

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Statement of Complaint: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What Action are you Requesting? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Received By

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Please submit this form to the ADA Coordinator Marcie Lee via email [mmlee@wbridgewater.com](mailto:mmlee@wbridgewater.com)

Or mail to:  
Marcie Lee, ADA Coordinator  
Town of West Bridgewater  
65 N Main St, West Bridgewater, MA 02379

## Effective Communication

Part of the Self-Evaluation considers the effective communication practices the Town employs and provides members of the public and individuals with one or more disability. Consistent with ADA guidance, municipalities should provide reasonable accommodations for individuals who have hearing, vision, or speech impairments. Auxiliary aids include services or devices<sup>3</sup> such as:

- Sign language interpreters
- Assistive listening devices
- Open, Closed or Real Time captioning
- Telecommunications devices for people who are deaf such as TDDs
- Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS)
- Screen Reader Software and Optical Readers
- Braille materials
- Digital documents
- Audio recordings
- Large print materials

### Recommendation:

1. Provide staff training to address Municipal responsibility to enforce ADA compliance and effective communication practices. (See Resources for opportunities)
2. Post common communication practices, available options and how to request communication assistance on the website.
3. Post the ADA Transition plan on the website.
4. Work with local cable access to provide closed captioning and listening devices for all public meetings.
5. Post a statement on public meeting agendas noting that accommodations are available to those with disabilities by contacting the ADA Coordinator. Include the ADA Coordinator's contact information. Provide notice that the meeting room is accessible and note clear directions of where the meeting room is located.

## Website Assessment

The Town of West Bridgewater relies on the town website to convey information to the public. The website is designed and maintained by Revize, a full-service website designer that specializes in sites for municipal governments. Revize designs their websites to meet current Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) and will periodically run a compliance scan to ensure the site continues to meet these ADA standards. Compliance features include ALT Tags, Digital Forms and Services, Audio and Video Transcripts, Contrast and Mobile Friendly features.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> ADA Resources for Effective Communication <https://www.ada.gov/resources/effective-communication/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.revize.com/blog/ada-website-accessibility-guide/>

**Recommendation:**

1. All staff that have access to make website updates should receive training on WCAG standards.
2. At least annually, the town should request an ADA compliance scan from Revize and make any necessary updates.

## ADA Transition Plan

### Use of the Transition Plan

The ADA Transition plan is a living document and should be widely shared with the community. The ADA Coordinator and the ADA Committee should update and review the document periodically. The cost estimate ranges provided are based on current best pricing estimates. The plan also indicates priorities to help direct the improvements.

### Pricing

Pricing estimates are broken out in ranges. Maintenance refers to improvements and modifications that are routine and minimal cost to complete. Generally, these modifications can be performed by town staff as part of routine maintenance.

The following ranges provide a general estimate for labor and materials based on current market pricing and review of comparable ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition plans and have been reviewed by town staff. These estimates are subject to change based on current market conditions and should be verified by the Town’s engineers and follow public procurement processes.

Maintenance
\$0-\$999
\$1,000-\$4,999
\$5,000-\$9,999
\$10,000+
\$50,000+

## Priority

The audits indicate the priorities as noted in the table below.

**Facility Access** is a high priority 1 as it allows physical access to the best use of public buildings and spaces.

**Interior Navigation** is a high priority 2 as it aids in finding rooms, elevators, exits, bathrooms, and other areas.

**Restroom access** is a high priority 3 and is extremely critical for all residents and visitors of town buildings and spaces.

**Access to Additional Amenities** is a low priority 4 and applies to amenities that are outside of the primary program delivery.

High	Priority 1	Facility Access
	Priority 2	Interior Navigation
	Priority 3	Restroom Access
Low	Priority 4	Access to Additional Amenities

## Municipal Building Assessment

Ref #	Building	Address	Year Built
1	Town Hall	65 North Main Street	1894
2	Town Historical Museum	65 North Main Street (behind Town Hall)	1894
3	DPW and Garage	65 North Main Street (behind Town Hall)	1999
4	Town Transfer Station	218 South Elm Street	1995
5	Water Department	29 Cyr Street	1987
6	Library	80 Howard Street	1989
7	Council on Aging	97 West Center Street	2003
8	Police and Fire	99 West Center Street	1950
9	Rose MacDonald School	1 Steppingstone Drive	1968
10	Spring Street School	2 Spring Street	1950
11	Howard Street School	70 Howard Street	1950
12	High School/Middle School	155 West Center Street	2015

## Town Hall

65 North Main Street

Year Built 1894



Current photo of Town Hall



Old photo of Town Hall showing ramp - Wikipedia

The West Bridgewater Town Hall is a two-story historic building that has been well modified over the years for ADA accessibility. Most departments that serve the public and public meeting spaces are located on the first floor. Department offices including the Building Department, Planning Department and Town Administrator's offices as well as the Eldon Moreira Board of Selectmen Meeting Room, are on the second floor. There are four accessible restrooms in the building with two on each floor, two for men and two for women.

There are two entrances to the building. The rear entrance is at the basement level and opens to an elevator that serves the first and second floor. The front entrance is at the top of a flight of concrete stairs. To the right of the front entrance, there is another entrance that is not used or open to the public. There are old photos showing a ramp at the front of the building leading to the front door, therefore, at one time, this entrance was accessible.

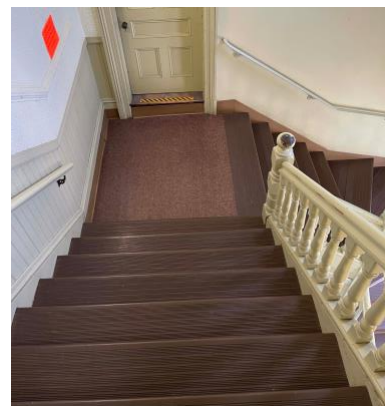
There is ample parking shared with the DPW and Town Museum including three appropriate handicapped spaces, each with van access.



Accessible rear door



Front interior staircase



Front interior staircase

**Town Hall** *continued*

Ref #	Description	Recommendation	Cost	Priority
1.1	Mats located through the building are heavy with beveled edges but should be secured to the floor.	Secure mats/carpets to prevent trip hazards.	Maintenance	2
1.2	Signage a. Some departmental signs are hinged and located above the door frames. b. Some are not compliant in height and design.	Install compliant signs with braille and mount them on the push side of the door at least 48" above the floor and the baseline of the highest character is no more than 60" above the floor.	\$0-\$999	2
1.3	The grand staircase leading to the second floor is winding with only one platform to rest.	Redesign and rebuild the staircase.	\$10,000+	1
1.4	The counter height of the building department window is greater than 36" high.	Reconfigure the counter to no higher than 36" and at least 36" long.	\$0-\$999	1
1.5	The front of the building has steps and no ramp that is ADA accessible.	Build a ramp to allow a second means of handicap access.	\$50,000+	1



## Town Historical Museum

65 North Main Street (behind Town Hall)

Year Built 1894



Side view of museum



Front view of museum



Antique Fire Truck

The Town Historical Museum displays more than 300 items, including an antique fire truck telling the story of the town’s history. This is a large one-room space in a garage building behind the Town Hall and is managed by the Historical Commission. In 2016, the town enjoyed a ribbon cutting opening the space for visitors. There is no heat in the building therefore, the museum is closed during the cold months and open on limited hours, seasonally. There is a second-floor attic used for storage with no public access. There are no restrooms in this building. Those in need would use the accessible facilities at the Town Hall, a few yards away. There is one door providing access that is wide enough for a wheelchair, however, due to the building settling, the door does not fully swing open. The museum shares parking spaces with the Town Hall and DPW.

Although not required, the town may want to consider installing a bench in the space outside the building. The space does not accommodate a large crowd. This would create an opportunity for people to wait outside and serve as a visual cue that the building is welcoming

Ref #	Description	Recommendation	Cost	Priority
2.1	The front door has a 41” entrance however, the door does not open all the way due to building settling and may not provide enough access for a wheelchair.	Adjust or trim the bottom of the door to allow the door to fully open.	Maintenance	1



## DPW and Garage

65 North Main Street (behind Town Hall)

Year Built 1999



The DPW has limited access to the public. Most residents that go to the building will be served at the front reception desk. There are two accessible bathrooms, one for men and one for women. There is one public entrance to the building. The DPW shares parking with the Town Hall and Town Historical Museum.

Ref #	Description	Recommendation	Cost	Priority
3.1	The counter at the reception desk is 42" high x 8ft long.	Lower the counter to 36" high.	\$0-\$999	1
3.2	a. Some departmental signs are hinged and located above the door frames. b. Some are not compliant in height and design.	Install compliant signs with braille and mount them on the push side of the door at least 48" above the floor and the baseline of the highest character is no more than 60" above the floor.	\$0-\$999	2
3.3	Mats located through the building are heavy with beveled edges but should be secured to the floor.	Secure mats/carpets to prevent trip hazards.	Maintenance	2

## Town Transfer Station

218 South Elm Street

Year Built 1995



There is one modular building on the site that is used for staff attendants and contains a small area for a desk, storage and one toilet. The building is in deteriorated condition due to mold and water damage and is not currently handicap accessible.

In 2019, Town Meeting voted to move forward on a site plan design to build a new attendant building and septic system. On May 9, 2022, Town Meeting voted to fund a new building including Site Work, Septic and related accessory items. The new building will be larger than the existing structure with heating and cooling, handicap accessibility and appropriate signage. The building is typically used by the attendant and volunteers but available to the public. The project has gone out for bid in early 2023 and is expected to be built and completed during the spring/summer of 2023.

## Water Department

29 Cyr Street

Year Built 1987



Most residents needing the services of the water department can be served at the front reception desk. There is a public space inside where the Water Commissioners meet two times a month and those meetings are open to the public. There is limited office space and two restrooms, one for men and one for women. There is one public entrance to the building. While there is a large parking area with ample places to park, there are no painted lines indicating parking spaces and no designation for handicap parking.

Ref #	Description	Recommendation	Cost	Priority
5.1	The walkway in front of the entrance is not level.	Repair or replace concrete to level the surface.	\$0-\$999	1
5.2	The counter at the reception area is 40".	Reconfigure the counter to no higher than 36" and at least 36" long.	\$0-\$999	1
5.3	The door frames to the men and women bathrooms are 29" wide.	Widen doorways to 32".	\$1,000 - \$4,999	3
5.4	Both bathrooms are not large enough for handicap accessibility.	Rebuild the bathrooms to bring them into compliance.	\$10,000 +	3
5.5	Bathroom signs should be updated to include braille.	Install compliant signs with braille and mount them on the push side of the door at least 48" above the floor and the baseline of the highest character is no	\$0-\$999	2

		more than 60" above the floor.		
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## Library

80 Howard Street

Year Built 1989



The Public Library serves all ages and abilities in the community. The first floor has an administrative desk, seating areas, tables and chairs, television nooks and shelving for books. There is a men and women bathroom that are fully accessible. There is a second floor that is not open to the public and used for storage. There are two accessible entrances, one in the front and one on the side. There are 24 parking spaces with three accessible van spaces. The book drop off box in the front of the building is accessible and the library offers large print and audio books.

Ref #	Description	Recommendation	Cost	Priority
6.1	Parking stripes are faded.	Repaint the parking stripes.	Maintenance	2
6.2	The handicap parking sign in the rear entrance is 41" above the ground.	Update the sign to be 60" above the ground.	Maintenance	2
6.3	Signs on the ends of bookshelves are posted at 64" high.	Signs should be lowered so the braille is reachable.	Maintenance	2
6.4	Aisles between bookcases are 35".	Bookcases should be adjusted to accommodate a minimum 36" pathway.	Maintenance	2



**Council on Aging**  
 97 West Center Street  
 Year Built 2003



The Council on Aging building has 35 parking spaces including 4 handicap spaces. They have amenities to support accessibility including large print books and open areas for meals and gatherings. There is an accessible shaded, outdoor patio behind the building with accessible tables. The COA offers wheelchairs, portable toilets, and shower seats for those with disabilities at no cost.

Ref #	Description	Recommendation	Cost	Priority
7.1	Handicap parking spaces do not have signage.	Install signs and indicate van accessible where appropriate.	\$1,000-4,999	2

## Police and Fire

99 West Center Street

Year Built 1950



The public spaces of both police and fire are primarily lobby spaces. Bathrooms are accessible with proper signage. Parking for police has 5 spaces plus 1 handicap van space. The dispatch area has a raised floor with no wheelchair access. Although not open to the public, the Chief indicated his desire to lower the floor to create opportunities for civilian dispatch personnel.

Ref #	Description	Recommendation	Cost	Priority
8.1	Police - front door requires more than 5lbs of force to open.	Adjust door closer to meet force and time requirements.	Maintenance	1
8.2	Police - front door does not have handicap push button for door opening.	Install automatic door opener with signage.	\$1,000 - \$4,999	1
8.3	Police -Some floor mats not secured.	Secure mats/carpets to prevent trip hazards.	Maintenance	2
8.4	Police – Public dispatch floor is raised by 3.5” with a step up and no wheelchair accessibility.	Reconstruct the floor to be level with the main floor and hallways.	\$10,000+	1
8.5	Fire – one of the two accessible parking spaces does not have a sign. The sign on the other parking space is too low.	Install two accessible parking signs.	\$ 0 - \$999	2

## Schools:

It is worth noting that the primary grade schools are quite old and are lacking space. Because there is no storage, some of the rooms have storage bins. Some bins and teaching supplies make it hard to access entryways, light switches and does not create enough area to move around. In some schools, the bathrooms seemed to be very cluttered with supplies. This can be common in older schools that are not well designed to meet the needs of current learning facilities and have more difficulty with ADA compliance because of their structural design. Signage should be consistent, compliant, and reachable for small students. <sup>5</sup>

### Rose MacDonald School grade 1 - 3

1 Steppingstone Drive

Year Built 1968



Ref #	Description	Recommendation	Cost	Priority
9.1	There are 4 handicap parking spaces including 2 accessible van spaces. Only one has a sign and that one is 53". All four have a painted symbol in the space. The one that has a sign is not permanently fixed. It is in a cement pot. Parking stripes are faded.	Install four permanent signs at 61". Restripe and repaint the spaces.	\$0-\$999	2
9.2	Most bathroom doors are 26" wide and not accessible for a wheelchair. Even if the doors are widened, there is not enough turning room for a wheelchair in most of the bathrooms.	Doorways should be widened to 32".	\$50,000+	3

<sup>5</sup> ADA 308.1 Reach Ranges <https://www.ada-compliance.com/ada-compliance/308-reach-ranges>

9.3	We did not see any handicap bathroom. There is one larger stall in the bathroom near the gym but there are no bars. The entry door is 35”.	Add handrails in the toilet area. Add compliant signage.	\$0-\$999	2
9.4	All classrooms and other doors have non-ADA compliant doorknobs.	Replace all hardware with ADA compliant knobs.	\$1,000-\$4,999	1
9.5	There are ramps inside the school connecting classroom corridors. The ramps are very steep.	Remediation may not be achievable as this is structural.	\$50,000+	1
9.6	The signage is inconsistent. Some have braille, some do not. Sign heights vary and many are in the wrong spot or are too high for little people to reach or blocked by furniture or storage containers.	Update all bathroom and classroom signage.	\$1,000 - \$4,999	2
9.7	There is a lift that could bring a wheelchair to the stage. Auditor is unsure if it works. The stage is filled with teacher desks and supplies and does not appear to be used for performances.	Test the lift to see if it works. Perform annual maintenance.	\$1,000 - \$4,999	1
9.8	There are several doors opening to the outside with a small concrete landing that creates a step down to grass. There is no ramp or pathway away from the building.	Create ramps and pathways away from the building.	\$50,000+	1
9.9	In the room with the lift and some of the bathrooms, the light switch is behind the lift and behind the doors.	Move light switches next to the door entrance.	\$10,000+	1
9.10	There is at least one classroom with a door to the exterior of the building and notice that it is an emergency exit. The doorway is less than 36” and there is a concrete pad with no ramp.	Widen the doorway to 36”. Build a ramp and pathway from the school.	\$10,000+	1



## Spring Street School pre-school and kindergarten

2 Spring Street

Year Built 1950



Ref #	Description	Recommendation	Cost	Priority
10.1	Light switches are inconsistent height ranging from 4' to 5'6".	Move light switches to no lower than 48".	\$1,000-\$4,999	1
10.2	The gazebo in the front has a step down and is not accessible for wheelchair access.	Build a ramp for access to the gazebo.	\$1,000-\$4,999	4
10.3	The pre-school bathroom has a changing table with a floor mat that would not allow easy wheelchair access.	Reconfigure the area with a smaller mat that allows wheelchair access.	Maintenance	2
10.4	Classroom signs are placed at inconsistent heights and some are not reachable by small children because of height or being blocked by furniture.	Install compliant signs with braille and mount them on the push side of the door at least 48" above the floor and the baseline of the highest character is no more than 60" above the floor. Ensure signs are not being blocked.	\$0-\$999	2
10.5	The playground is only accessible through the school and there is not	Install accessible pathways with more	\$1,000-\$4,999	4

	an even, flat surface from the school to the playground.	stable material or install mats.		
10.6	The doors around the school open to concrete platforms with a step down to grass.	Create ramps and pathways away from the building.	\$50,000+	1

### Howard Street School – grades 4-6

70 Howard Street

Year Built 1950



Ref #	Description	Recommendation	Cost	Priority
11.1	The entry to the library is 30" wide. The entry is made with adjustable walls.	Adjust the walls to ensure there is 32" of clearance.	Maintenance	1
11.2	There are outdoor wooden picnic tables, but none are ADA compliant.	Add an ADA compliant table.	\$0-\$999	4
11.3	There are three handicap parking spots on the side of the building 2 accessible van spaces. There are no signs. Striping is faded.	Install three permanent signs at 61". Restripe and repaint the spaces.	\$0-\$999	2

**High School/Middle School** – grades 7-12

155 West Center Street

Year Built 2015



Ref #	Description	Recommendation	Cost	Priority
12.1	The High School/Middle School is new and appeared to be compliant in all the areas we checked.	N/A		



# Open Space and Recreation Assessment

## Athletic Fields

- High School/Middle School Athletic Fields
- Howard School Soccer Fields
- Softball & Baseball Fields - Town Hall

## Playgrounds

- Friendship Park
- MacDonald School Playground
- Torrie's Place Playground

## Canoe Landings

- Pratt's Landing
- Reynolds Landing
- Trucci's Landing

## Landmarks

- Comfort Bridge
- Gazebo at Town Hall
- Skim Milk Bridge
- Solitude Stone
- Veteran's Parks

## Open Space/Trails/Nature Areas

- Flaggy Meadows
- Forest Street Fish & Game Area
- Hockomock Swamp/Bay Circuit Trail
- Holmes Hill
- Howe Memorial Skating Rink
- War Memorial Park
- West Bridgewater Rail Trail
- West Meadow Brook Pond & State Forest
- Woodcock Chase Land



## Athletic Fields

Facility Name	High School/Middle School Athletic Fields
Owner/Manager	School Department
Location	155 West Center Street
Acreage	
Activity	Athletic sports and band performances
Site Amenities	Athletic fields, stadium seating
Assessment	Fields are relatively new with proper accessible parking and van accessible parking.
Corrective Action	n/a
Schedule Change and/or Estimated Cost of Action	n/a

Facility Name	Howard School Soccer Fields
Owner/Manager	School Department
Location	70 Howard Street
Acreage	
Activity	Soccer field
Site Amenities	Athletic fields and bleacher seating
Assessment	Seating is not accessible
Corrective Action	Provide accessible seating
Schedule Change and/or Estimated Cost of Action	Estimated cost: \$0 - \$999

Facility Name	Softball & Baseball Fields – Town Hall
Owner/Manager	Department of Public Works/ West Bridgewater Youth Athletic Association
Location	Map 39, Lot 63
Acreage	19.84
Activity	Sports
Site Amenities	Baseball/softball fields
Assessment	<p>The path of travel is not accessible from the parking lot. The surface is grass and asphalt and not evenly paved. The side of field closest to the club house and highway dept parking is not striped. 2 bathrooms are not accessible. One bathroom in the new snack bar has a step up, the other in the club house also has a step up, and neither are wheelchair accessible. Spectator seating is old and wooden, and not accessible. Not all benches have arm or back rests. Picnic tables are not accessible and not located in a shade area.</p>
Corrective Action	<p>Create accessible pathways, line parking spaces, update bathrooms, remediate the step to the clubhouse, update spectator seating, benches, and picnic tables. Locate some seating and tables in shade areas.</p>
Schedule Change and/or Estimated Cost of Action	<p>Estimated cost \$50,000+. Some of the work may be done by volunteers. Consider inviting local groups to donate funding to sponsor picnic tables, benches, and accessible seating.</p>

## Playgrounds

The elementary schools are aging as are the playgrounds. If the town is considering constructing new schools in the future, playground updates will be part of the plan. Playgrounds in a school setting are now modernized to include outdoor learning and exploring space. As housing is developed in town, consider working with developers to include pocket parks with small playgrounds for children and older adults. Consider commissioning a feasibility study for all school playgrounds to make updates. Budget for costs of modernized playgrounds and learning areas. Consider including sensory amenities, shade, and resting spaces in the design.

Friendship Park is newer, well used and well maintained. The Friends of Friendship Park have done a good job fundraising to update and refresh the structures and the space.

Facility Name	Friendship Park
Owner/Manager	Department of Public Works
Location	Map 39, Lot 7, Howard Street
Acreage	15.9
Activity	Playground
Site Amenities	Playground, picnic tables
Assessment	Parking is not adequate when large groups are using the playground. No accessible pathways to many of the picnic tables. Signs could be more accessible.
Corrective Action	Move picnic table to a flat surface for accessibility (no cost) or consider installing pathways or walkway access mats (moderate cost). Provide seating opportunities in shaded areas. Signs could be updated to have sound and braille.
Schedule Change and/or Estimated Cost of Action	Estimated cost: \$1,000 - \$4,999

Facility Name	MacDonald School Playground
Owner/Manager	School Department
Location	Map 37, Lot 19, Steppingstone Drive
Acreage	27.41
Activity	Playground
Site Amenities	Playground
Assessment	This is an aging playground with woodchips/grass surface that is uneven and not tightly packed. The equipment is old with no accessible features. No shade.
Corrective Action	A committee has been tasked with evaluating all school recreational facilities.
Schedule Change and/or Estimated Cost of Action	Estimated cost: \$ 50,000+

Facility Name	Torrie's Place Playground
Owner/Manager	School Department
Location	At Spring Street School, 2 Spring Street
Acreage	
Activity	Playground
Site Amenities	Playground
Assessment	Located behind a locked gate inside the school courtyard. Woodchip base is uneven and not packed tightly. Equipment is aging with no accessible play units. Access through the school requires a step down. Not open to the public.
Corrective Action	A committee has been tasked with evaluating all school recreational facilities.
Schedule Change and/or Estimated Cost of Action	\$ 50,000+



## **Outdoor environmental limitations**

The ABA Standards recognize the existence of constraints and limitations in the outdoor environment and allow for exceptions from specific provisions in the technical requirements where certain circumstances, referred to as “conditions for exceptions,” apply<sup>6</sup>. When an entity determines that any of the conditions for exceptions do not permit full compliance with a specific provision in the technical requirements, compliance with that provision is required to the extent practicable. The phrase “to the extent practicable” means reasonably doable under the circumstances.

The conditions for exceptions should be used only after all other design options are thoroughly explored. Where a condition for exception applies to only part of a trail, a beach access route, or an outdoor recreation access route, the rest of the trail or route must comply with all the technical requirements for the trail or route.

## **Signage**

Signage is inconsistent or non-existent throughout the town. Consider commissioning a wayfinding and branding study to inventory the signs needed. Signs should be designed with accessible colors, fonts, and design. Proper signage can help create a sense of placemaking. Consider identifying historic districts and business districts to create a mark of arrival. Where appropriate and possible, consider including interpretive kiosks, braille, and sound. If using kiosks, coordinate the design and color with the wayfinding. Grant funding may be available through the Community One Stop program.

## **Canoe Landings**

Although canoe landings may seem unlikely to be used by people in wheelchairs, consider ways to make the outdoor space inviting and welcoming as a natural space by areas for sensory exploration and seating. Adding kiosks, visual markers and public art can create a sense of place and provide a welcoming experience for all abilities. Adding accessible bathrooms is another way to welcome the community and make the space more universally usable.

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<sup>6</sup> US Access Board, <https://www.access-board.gov/aba/guides/chapter-10-outdoor/>

Facility Name	Pratt's Landing
Owner/Manager	Conservation Commission
Location	River Street
Acreage	
Activity	Canoe landing, nature viewing
Site Amenities	Installed canoe landing, natural landscape
Assessment	The pathway to the ramp is over grass and dirt that is uneven. Difficult to find, signage is faded and hard to see. No site parking available – street parking only. A person must cross over grass to get to the embankment.
Corrective Action	The Conservation Commission is planning to further develop the site to include parking and expand use.
Schedule Change and/or Estimated Cost of Action	

Facility Name	Reynold's Landing
Owner/Manager	Conservation Commission
Location	Map 54, Lot 44, Ash Street
Acreage	1.42
Activity	Canoe landing, nature viewing
Site Amenities	Natural landscape
Assessment	Crushed gravel, natural, parking lot. Limited parking for less than 10 cars. No accessible parking available. The pathway to the landing is partially obstructed by tree roots and overgrowth.
Corrective Action	Expand and clear the pathway of the trail to make it more accessible. Identify accessible parking space with signage. This could be a good volunteer opportunity for the community.
Schedule Change and/or Estimated Cost of Action	Estimated cost: \$0 - \$999

Facility Name	Trucchi's Landing
Owner/Manager	Conservation Commission
Location	Map 40, Lot 12, E Center Street
Acreage	5.03
Activity	Canoe Landing, Nature viewing
Site Amenities	Natural landscape
Assessment	The parking area is hard to access by wheelchair. Must travel across a field and down a step, winding embankment to reach the landing.
Corrective Action	Compliance with the landing is not practical due to the terrain, however, the grassy area could be enhanced to include other sensory amenities.
Schedule Change and/or Estimated Cost of Action	Estimated cost: \$0 - \$999

## Landmarks

Facility Name	Comfort Bridge & Solitude Rock
Owner/Manager	Conservation Commission
Location	Solitude Rock is located at the southern end of Forest Street on the left just before the bridge
Acreage	
Activity	Historic landmark, bridge
Site Amenities	Natural landscape
Assessment	At the corner of Forest and Clinton. No parking, no signage.
Corrective Action	Consider adding accessible signage and an accessible marker or informational kiosk.
Schedule Change and/or Estimated Cost of Action	Estimated cost: \$1,000 - \$4,999

Facility Name	Gazebo at Town Hall
Owner/Manager	Department of Public Works
Location	65 North Main Street
Acreage	
Activity	Passive recreation
Site Amenities	Outdoor performance gathering space
Assessment	Gazebo needs repair. Steps are rotted with no railings. No way to get onto the structure with a wheelchair. No ramp. The pathway is uneven from the parking lot to the structure. Flagstones and pavers on the grass. Small plaque on a rock, not easily identifiable. Parking shared with ballfield and Town Hall.
Corrective Action	Per 4-1-23 The town has created a statement of work and a request for proposals and is awaiting responses.
Schedule Change and/or Estimated Cost of Action	Estimated cost: \$10,000+

Facility Name	Skim Milk Bridge
Owner/Manager	Conservation Commission
Location	Skim Milk Bridge extends across the Town River near the southern border of West Bridgewater, about 0.25 mi. east of Scotland Street. The bridge is located on the former right of way for Maple Street (aka the “old road”) and is at the intersection of four parcels. Three of the parcels (66-05, 72-2, and 72-7) are owned by the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game, and the fourth parcel (72- 1) is owned by the Town of West Bridgewater. The bridge is in undeveloped, wooded surroundings, adjacent to the Hockomock Swamp WMA and

	the Bay Circuit Trail and is accessible from a trailhead on Scotland Street. <sup>7</sup>
Acreage	
Activity	Historic landmark, bridge
Site Amenities	
Assessment	Next to Scotland Street Bridge, over the Town River and down a trail. One of the oldest standing bridges and trails. The town would like to have the site designated as a National Historic Site. No canoe landing. No parking. No signage.
Corrective Action	The Conservation Commission sponsored a CPC application in 2020 to perform structural evaluation and recommendations for stabilization. Ensure that accessibility is considered during this project.
Schedule Change and/or Estimated Cost of Action	Estimated cost: \$5,000 - \$9,999

<b>Facility Name</b>	<b>Veteran's Park aka 911 Park</b>
Owner/Manager	Department of Public Works
Location	Next to the Police/Fire Station 99 West Center Street
Acreage	
Activity	Monument viewing, reflecting site
Site Amenities	Monument viewing
Assessment	Uses parking available at the fire station with 2 accessible spaces, 1 of which is van accessible. Wheelchair accessible.
Corrective Action	No actions required.
Schedule Change and/or Estimated Cost of Action	N/A

<sup>7</sup> Skim Milk Bridge CPA Application Draft 03.03.20 [bit.ly/41VCRmj](https://bit.ly/41VCRmj)

Facility Name	Veteran's Park
Owner/Manager	Department of Public Works
Location	West Street and Beacon Street
Acreage	
Activity	Monument viewing, reflecting site
Site Amenities	Grassy area, flagpole, bench
Assessment	On-street parking only, no crosswalks leading to the site
Corrective Action	Create parking spots on the shoulder near the fence. Create accessible pathways in the park.
Schedule Change and/or Estimated Cost of Action	Estimated cost: \$1,000 - \$4,999

## Open Space, Trails, Nature Areas

Facility Name	Flaggy Meadows
Owner/Manager	Conservation Commission
Location	Map 51, Lot 18, Forest Street
Acreage	17.40
Activity	Hiking
Site Amenities	
Assessment	Signed access but no defined path, mostly wetlands and marsh.
Corrective Action	Create pathways and signage or informational kiosk.
Schedule Change and/or Estimated Cost of Action	Estimated cost: \$1,000 - \$4,999

<b>Facility Name</b>	<b>Forest Street Fish &amp; Game Area</b>
Owner/Manager	Massachusetts Department of Fish & Wildlife
Location	At West Meadows Pond
Acreage	
Activity	Passive recreation, hiking
Site Amenities	
Assessment	Pathways are in the woods, uneven, natural paths. Several fallen trees blocking the paths.
Corrective Action	Identify the party responsible for path clearing, vegetation management, and tree removal. Put a system in place for reporting.
Schedule Change and/or Estimated Cost of Action	Estimated cost: \$0 - \$999

<b>Facility Name</b>	<b>Hockomock Swamp/Bay Circuit Trail</b>
Owner/Manager	Massachusetts Department of Fish & Wildlife
Location	Map 66, Lot 999, Maple Street
Acreage	1,266.47
Activity	Passive recreation, hiking
Site Amenities	
Assessment	No signage or trail head marker. Dirt/gravel road. Adjacent to private property. Clearly marked parking for 4 cars, no accessible parking. The large metal gate is closed. Signage is limited and obscured by vegetative growth. Many downed trees including across the path at eye level.
Corrective Action	Identify the party responsible for path clearing, vegetation management, and tree removal. Put a system in place for reporting. Add signage or trail head marker. Add accessible parking space.
Schedule Change and/or Estimated Cost of Action	Estimated cost: \$0 - \$999

Facility Name	Holmes Hill
Owner/Manager	Conservation Commission
Location	Map 53, Lot 16, Forest Street
Acreage	7.87
Activity	Passive recreation, hiking, ATV riding
Site Amenities	
Assessment	Signed area but no defined path for travel, no defined parking.
Corrective Action	Identify and define parking area with accessible space. Clear and define path for travel.
Schedule Change and/or Estimated Cost of Action	Estimated cost: \$0 - \$999

Facility Name	Howe Memorial Skating Rink
Owner/Manager	Department of Public Works
Location	Map 39, Lot 3, Howard Street
Acreage	5.1
Activity	Recreation, ice skating
Site Amenities	Skating rink, benches, fireplace
Assessment	Benches are old, wooden, and located on the grass. Shared parking with the Police/Fire Station.
Corrective Action	The area could be accessible for persons with disabilities if handicap parking spots were designated in the adjacent Fire/Police Station parking lot. It could then be used as a viewing/drop off area for the skating rink. Consider adding accessible benches.
Schedule Change and/or Estimated Cost of Action	Estimated cost: \$0 - \$999



Facility Name	War Memorial Park
Owner/Manager	Department of Public Works
Location	Map 46, Lot 38, 39, 74, River Street
Acreage	4.42
Activity	
Site Amenities	Passive recreation, picnicking
Assessment	No defined parking spaces, no accessible parking spaces, no defined path of travel, uneven and not wide enough, picnic tables, stairs not accessible for a wheelchair. Two ADA compliant picnic tables, not in a shaded area. One non-ADA wooden picnic table in a shaded area. Trash barrels located off the path in the grass and not wheelchair accessible.
Corrective Action	Identify handicap parking spaces. Define the path of travel, widen and level the path. Move ADA tables to a shaded area. Move trash barrels closer to the path.
Schedule Change and/or Estimated Cost of Action	Estimated cost: \$5000 - \$9999

Facility Name	West Bridgewater Rail Trail
Owner/Manager	Conservation Commission
Location	Map 33, Lot 22 North Main Street
Acreage	11.62
Activity	Passive recreation, hiking
Site Amenities	
Assessment	Uneven, dirt surface with rails in some areas. No accessible parking spaces or ramps. No accessible path of travel.
Corrective Action	Update, level and widen trails. Create accessible parking. Explore MassTrails grants <a href="https://bit.ly/40Elyo4">https://bit.ly/40Elyo4</a> The Open Space Committee is looking to add an interpretive kiosk.
Schedule Change and/or Estimated Cost of Action	Estimated cost: \$5,000 - \$9,999

<b>Facility Name</b>	<b>West Meadowbrook Pond/State Forest</b>
Owner/Manager	Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation
Location	Map 5 Lot 5, Map 15 Lot 12, Spring Street
Acreage	133.35 plus 294.6
Activity	Passive Recreation, hiking, fishing
Site Amenities	
2010 Assessment	The town would like to design the site to accommodate swimming as right now there are no swimming facilities in town. Could be a regional asset if enhanced.
Corrective Action	Conduct a feasibility study.
Schedule Change and/or Estimated Cost of Action	Estimated cost: \$50,000+

<b>Facility Name</b>	<b>Woodcock Chase Land</b>
Owner/Manager	Conservation Commission
Location	Map 31, Lot 61, N Elm Street
Acreage	9.41
Activity	Passive recreation
Site Amenities	
2010 Assessment	No marked access or parking. No signage, parcel is hidden.
Corrective Action	Identify parking area with proper signage and access.
Schedule Change and/or Estimated Cost of Action	Estimated cost: \$0 - \$999

## Non-ADA Crosswalk to Sidewalk Inventory

Main Street	Side Street	No. of Ramps
Harvestwood Drive	Fieldstone Terrace	2
Howard Street	First Church	2
Matfield Street	Esther Drive	2
Matfield Street	Cyr Street	2
Matfield Street	Ledgelawn Drive	2
North Elm Street	Steppingstone Drive	2
North Elm Street	Crescent Street	4
North Elm Street	Spring Street	2
North Elm Street	Sunset Avenue	2
North Elm Street	Tiffany Circle	2
North Elm Street	Brooks Place	2
North Elm Street	Roosevelt Avenue	2
North Elm Street	Sinnott Street	2
North Elm Street	Shaw Avenue	2
Plain Street	Belmont Street	2
Plain Street	Thomas Circle	2
Spring Street	Howard Street	2
Spring Street	Harvestwood Drive	2
Spring Street	Meadowspring Drive	2
Spring Street	Crescent Street	2
Spring Street	Kenneth Avenue	4
West Center Street	Dunkin Donuts	1
West Center Street	Prospect Street	2
West Center Street	Elm Square	3
West Center Street	Ellis Avenue	2
West Center Street	Hillside Avenue	2
West Center Street	Sunnyside Café	1
West Center Street	Howard Marketplace	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>58</b>

The Town has created an inventory of non-ADA crosswalks to sidewalks. The next step is to create an assessment to determine the extent of non-compliance and prioritize those that are in high pedestrian traffic areas and those frequently used by people with disabilities.

Estimated cost: \$ 100,000+

## Conclusion

The Town of West Bridgewater is committed to ensuring that all residents have equal access to the programs and facilities available to the public. The Town should continue to update the plan and engage the public with the status. The Town should continue to update a library of resources and make that list available to the public by posting it on the website. Although some of the goals may seem difficult to achieve due to resources and funding, continue to seek grant funding and enlist the help of volunteers. Some suggestions for volunteer assistance include service organizations including the Lions Club, the Rotary Club, local scouting troops and local businesses.

## Resources

### ADA Title II Requirements

<https://www.adaactionguide.org/ada-title-ii-requirements>

### MassRelay Service

MassRelay is the state's free and confidential communication relay service for those who may be deaf, hard-of-hearing, late deafened, or speech disabled. This service is provided 24 hours, seven days a week, 365 days a year. A Relay Operator will complete your call, dialing the party you wish to contact and then stay on the line to relay messages electronically via a TTY or verbally to people who can hear.

For more information on specific services visit their website: <https://www.mass.gov/massrelay>

### Massachusetts Commission for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing (MCDHH) Statewide Interpreter/CART Referral Service

The MCDHH provides statewide interpreter and Communication Access Realtime Translation (CART) referral services. It provides referral services for sign language, spoken English, oral, tactile, and close vision interpreting for Deaf and Deaf-Blind individuals, as well as making referral to freelance CART providers for services. They also provide an After-hours Emergency Interpreter Service, an Interpreter Screening service, Interpreter and CART provider training, case management, and technical assistance.

For more information on specific services visit their website: <https://www.mass.gov/statewide-interpreter-and-cart-communication-access-realtime-translation-referral-service>

### Rails to Trails Conservancy - Trail Building Toolbox

<https://www.railstotrails.org/build-trails/trail-building-toolbox/design/accessibility/>

## **Training and Technical Assistance**

Massachusetts Commission for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing (MCDHH)

MCDHH, through the Communication Access, Training, and Technology Services Department (CATTs) provides information and training to the public on issues of deafness and hearing loss. Free In-service or educational services/presentations can be provided for any organization or business seeking to improve their effectiveness in interacting with people who are deaf and hard of hearing. MCDHH also provides technical assistance on assistive technology to public and private agencies related to all aspects of technology for the deaf and hard of hearing individuals.

For more information visit their website at: <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/massachusetts-commission-for-the-deaf-and-hard-of-hearing>

## **Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination (MCAD)**

MCAD seeks to eliminate discrimination in the Commonwealth by offering training to help prevent discrimination from occurring. Training sessions range from two hours to four days in length, depending on the topics covered and include interactive quizzes, case scenarios, and videos to educate participants on their rights and teach employers their responsibilities under the Massachusetts anti-discrimination laws. They also offer Equal Employment Opportunity Certifications for individuals who currently provide, or seek to provide, employment discrimination prevention training, conduct internal discrimination complaint investigations and/ or respond to accommodation requests.

For more information visit their website at: <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/massachusetts-commission-against-discrimination>

## **Massachusetts Office on Disability (MOD)**

The Massachusetts Office on Disability (MOD) promotes access, inclusion, and equal opportunity for people with disabilities in Massachusetts, ensuring that people with disabilities can equally participate in all aspects of life. MOD serves as a resource to state agencies, municipalities, and members of the public by providing information, guidance and training on matters concerning disability-related civil rights, equal access, and opportunity. Through their training, MOD assists individuals and organizations understand how disability laws and regulations apply in their situation and explore solutions.

For more information visit their website at: <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/massachusetts-office-on-disability>

## **New England ADA Center**

The New England ADA Center provides information, guidance and training on ADA tailored to meet the needs of business, government, and individuals at local, regional and national levels. Their website has a clearing house of ADA training topics that are no cost web-based courses in addition to publications and best practices resources. It is also a good source of language and examples of draft policies.

For more information on available trainings and policies: <https://www.newenglandada.org/training>

## Disability Census Data

2021 ACS 5 YEAR	West Bridgewater town, Plymouth County, Massachusetts		
	TOTAL	WITH A DISABILITY	PERCENT WITH A DISABILITY
Total civilian noninstitutionalized population	7,486	573	7.7%
<b>SEX</b>			
Male	3,734	226	6.1%
Female	3,752	347	9.2%
<b>AGE</b>			
Under 5 years	399	0	0.0%
5 to 17 years	1,242	44	3.5%
18 to 34 years	1,649	0	0.0%
35 to 64 years	3,076	252	8.2%
65 to 74 years	733	126	17.2%
75 years and over	387	151	39.0%
<b>DISABILITY TYPE BY DETAILED AGE</b>			
<b>With a hearing difficulty</b>	(X)	154	2.1%
Population under 18 years	1,641	0	0.0%
Population under 5 years	399	0	0.0%
Population 5 to 17 years	1,242	0	0.0%
Population 18 to 64 years	4,725	43	0.9%
Population 18 to 34 years	1,649	0	0.0%
Population 35 to 64 years	3,076	43	1.4%
Population 65 years and over	1,120	111	9.9%
Population 65 to 74 years	733	63	8.6%
Population 75 years and over	387	48	12.4%
<b>With a vision difficulty</b>	(X)	104	1.4%
Population under 18 years	1,641	13	0.8%
Population under 5 years	399	0	0.0%
Population 5 to 17 years	1,242	13	1.0%
Population 18 to 64 years	4,725	31	0.7%
Population 18 to 34 years	1,649	0	0.0%
Population 35 to 64 years	3,076	31	1.0%
Population 65 years and over	1,120	60	5.4%
Population 65 to 74 years	733	47	6.4%
Population 75 years and over	387	13	3.4%

<b>With a cognitive difficulty</b>	(X)	182	2.6%
Population under 18 years	1,242	17	1.4%
Population 18 to 64 years	4,725	83	1.8%
Population 18 to 34 years	1,649	0	0.0%
Population 35 to 64 years	3,076	83	2.7%
Population 65 years and over	1,120	82	7.3%
Population 65 to 74 years	733	22	3.0%
Population 75 years and over	387	60	15.5%
<b>With an ambulatory difficulty</b>	(X)	284	4.0%
Population under 18 years	1,242	14	1.1%
Population 18 to 64 years	4,725	104	2.2%
Population 18 to 34 years	1,649	0	0.0%
Population 35 to 64 years	3,076	104	3.4%
Population 65 years and over	1,120	166	14.8%
Population 65 to 74 years	733	44	6.0%
Population 75 years and over	387	122	31.5%
<b>With a self-care difficulty</b>	(X)	115	1.6%
Population under 18 years	1,242	0	0.0%
Population 18 to 64 years	4,725	19	0.4%
Population 18 to 34 years	1,649	0	0.0%
Population 35 to 64 years	3,076	19	0.6%
Population 65 years and over	1,120	96	8.6%
Population 65 to 74 years	733	8	1.1%
Population 75 years and over	387	88	22.7%
<b>With an independent living difficulty</b>	(X)	195	3.3%
Population 18 to 64 years	4,725	94	2.0%
Population 18 to 34 years	1,649	0	0.0%
Population 35 to 64 years	3,076	94	3.1%
Population 65 years and over	1,120	101	9.0%
Population 65 to 74 years	733	0	0.0%
Population 75 years and over	387	101	26.1%



## Ways to support and encourage ADA accessibility in West Bridgewater

**Educate yourself:** Learn about the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the requirements for accessibility in public spaces. Understanding these guidelines can help you identify areas that may need improvement.

**Advocate for change:** Speak up about the need for ADA accessibility in the community. This can include advocating for changes in local policies and regulations or working with community organizations to raise awareness about accessibility issues.

**Partner with local organizations:** Partner with disability advocacy groups and organizations in your community to collaborate on accessibility initiatives. These groups can provide valuable insight and support for improving accessibility.

**Make your own space accessible:** If you have a business or public space, make it accessible for people with disabilities. This can include providing wheelchair ramps, installing accessible parking spaces, and ensuring that entrances and exits are wide enough for wheelchair users.

**Be mindful of language:** Use respectful and inclusive language when discussing disability issues. Avoid using derogatory terms or language that reinforces stereotypes.

**Volunteer:** Volunteer with local disability advocacy organizations or assistive technology programs to help make a difference in the community.

**Use social media:** Use social media platforms to raise awareness about accessibility issues and share resources with others. Encourage others to join the conversation and share their own experiences and perspectives.

**Celebrate the ADA:** throughout the year and the ADA Anniversary on July 26<sup>th</sup>. For more ideas, look at the ADA Anniversary toolkit <https://adaanniversary.org/ideas-celebrate-ada/>

**By working together, we can create a more inclusive and accessible community for all.**